

ARMED LINER RULE PROMPTS QUICK ACTION

U. S. Officials Gravely Study
Text of German Warning
Concerning Merchant Ships.

The United States faces one of the gravest problems of the war, officials admitted today, in deciding the attitude the Government shall take in the light of Germany's announced intention to treat armed enemy merchantmen as warships after February 22, and sink them without warning.

For the second time during the war the United States is called upon to decide a serious question affecting its neutrality, the first being its refusal to grant the German allies' request for an embargo on arms shipments.

If the State Department should elect to support the German and Austrian contention that all armed merchant vessels are to be classified as warships and treated as such at sea and in ports, it will be brought into serious conflict with Great Britain and her allies.

By opposing the policy of the central powers the United States will face a new submarine issue that may seriously threaten the relations between the United States and Germany.

Studying Text of Proposals.
High officials of the Government took up for earnest consideration today the German armed merchantmen proposals, the full text of which reached Washington from Berlin late yesterday. Early action is necessary because Germany has threatened to put her new submarine policy into effect within two weeks and a half.

What Germany asks the United States to do is to "warn their subjects from further intrusting their persons or property to armed merchant ships of the powers at war with the German empire."

To do this, officials hold, would not be sufficient, as mere warnings would not relieve the United States of the necessity of protecting Americans who took passage on such ships and came to grief despite warnings. It would be necessary for the United States to go further and amend its regulations so that armed merchantmen would be classified as war vessels. Passengers and shippers then could not ask protection while aboard an enemy warship.

Charge Breach of Neutrality.
But to do this, Great Britain and her allies have informally notified the State Department, would be a breach of neutrality on the part of the United States. The United States has gone on record during the war by officially holding that merchant vessels may carry small arms for defensive purposes, declaring that international law gives them this right.

To rule otherwise at this time, so far as American port regulations are concerned, according to the British contention, would be to affirm a new principle of international law, and would involve a breach of neutrality by changing policy in the progress of a war. It was upon this ground that the United States refused to place an embargo on arms shipments to the allies.

A ruling in favor of the German allies' position may bring reprisals from Great Britain and France. If armed merchantmen of these countries should be placed on a footing as war vessels, there have been threats that three nations would withdraw all vessels from

United States trade, seriously crippling American commerce.

State Department Views.
The State Department is known to hold the view that new regulations regarding the status of merchantmen would not be unusual because they would be directed at all nations alike, but the entente allies point out that they would apply only to them, as the German allies have no merchant vessels at sea.

On the other hand the State Department, professing to hold an open mind as to the attitude it will assume, refuses to accept the view that the informal suggestions urging the entente allies to disarm merchantmen are in any way binding upon the United States. Because the United States has suggested that it may change its regulations does not necessarily force this Government to such action.

A serious angle of the situation is that in spite of the pledges made by Germany in the Arabic and Lusitania cases not to sink liners without warning and without safety of passengers, the new German submarine policy threatens new dangers to the United States. Those pledges would not apply to enemy passenger vessels carrying arms, as Germany would regard them not as liners, but as war vessels.

Grave Issue Threatens.
If the United States should elect to stand by its present regulations, and reject the German proposals, the death of Americans on armed passenger vessels of Germany's enemies would raise the gravest issue between the United States and Germany.

The United States must take one of the two horns of the dilemma. No matter which attitude it may assume, officials realize that it can hardly hope to escape serious difficulties with one set of belligerents. Realizing this, the most serious consideration is being given to the question before the Administration's policy is formed.

MISS WILSON WILL BE GUEST OF CIVIC FORUM

Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of the President, will be the guest of honor at the first meeting of Washington's pioneer community forum at the civic, social, and industrial center at Grover Cleveland School, Eighth and T streets northwest, this afternoon.

Commissioner Oliver P. Newman and Henry P. Blair, president of the Board of Education, will also attend the meeting. The speakers will be Congressman Robert N. Page of North Carolina and Prof. Edwin J. Ward, of the Federal Bureau of Education.

Display Men to Meet Here Next Wednesday

Reports from the committee on rules and the banquet arrangement committee will be made at the meeting of the display men's section of the Retail Merchants' Association at headquarters, Wednesday evening.

Store windows and interior displays have come to be one of the important elements of trade, and the Retail Merchants' Association has brought about the affiliation of display men with a view to maintaining and if possible increasing the standard of such organization in the business houses of Washington.

Cured His RUPTURE

I was badly ruptured while lifting a trunk several years ago. Doctors said my only hope of cure was an operation. Trusses did me no good. Finally I got hold of something that quickly and completely cured me. Years have passed and the rupture has never returned, although I am doing hard work as a carpenter. There was no operation, no lost time, no trouble. I have nothing to sell, but will give full information about how you may find a complete cure without operation, if you write to me. Eugene M. Pullen, Carpenter, 42-B Marston Avenue, Manassas, N. J. Better cut out this notice and show it to any others who are ruptured—you may save a life or at least stop the misery of rupture and the worry and danger of an operation.—Advt.

This Men's Shop Ends Its Season

It's not the "going" shop with relics to dispose of—it's the "coming" shop quoting finally reduced prices for this season's goods.

Palais Royal
11th Street G Street

Men's Overcoats and Suits

Clothing sold at \$14.50 and up—all new this season—now bunched at \$8.75 and \$11.50. No "Sale" clothing—and no "relics."

Gentlemen's Shirts
79c **Guaranteed, Standard** \$1.29
at \$1.00, \$1.50,
\$2.00 and \$2.50

It's so easy to inject "Sale Shirts," quote low prices and make good profits. In this instance you get this New Men's Shop regular stock of Shirts, standard at \$1.00 to \$2.50. Each guaranteed as to materials, colors and fit. Included are silk crepe and the madras and Russian cord shirts with the colors woven in, guaranteed. Flannel, too.

29c Neckwear, Standard at 50c and up to \$1.50 **69c**

Not one made to retail at less than 50c—and not one a relic of the past. Regular patrons know this New Shop's 50c to \$1.50 Neckwear and will gladly profit by tomorrow's reduced prices.



Gentlemen's Nightwear
45c **Nightshirts and Pajamas** 95c
Worth up to \$1.50

At 95c are the \$1.50 Madras and Pongee Cloth Pajamas, with silk frog fastenings. At 45c are the 75c Flannel and Cambric Night Shirts. All standard—cut very full and properly tailored—real bargains at 45c and 95c.

\$2.35 Bathrobes and Sweaters at Reduced Prices **\$2.45**

Not one of the Bath Robes was less than \$3.50—bunched at \$2.35 for choice. Among the Sweaters reduced to \$2.45 are a few in tan and white, that were \$5.00.

Street Floor, Two Doors East of Eleventh, on G.

Guaranteed Home Needs 49c Not "Seconds," All Best

Houdy's Cedar Oil Polishing Mop
49c
Cedar Oil Mop, adjustable handle; it cleans and polishes all the "hard-to-get-at" places, eats up the dust, and polishes all floors.

Alarm Clock
49c
Usually 69c
Nickel-plated, guaranteed one year.

Best Enamel Ware 49c
Values to \$1.45 Each.
Choice of 12-quart Dishpans, 8-quart Water Pails, 8-quart Preserving Kettles, 6-quart Berlin Kettles, 4-quart Saucepans, 6-quart Saucepans, 2-quart Coffee Pots.

Food Chopper
49c
Family size, with 4 steel cutters. Usually \$1.00.

Clothes Basket
49c
Values to \$1.50
Imported, various styles and sizes.

Floor Brooms
Two (2) for—49c
Four-sewed, best green corn. Regular 36c value. Two for 49c.

Coffee Mill
49c
With 1 quart glass canister. Usually 69c.

Clothes Dryer
49c
79c Value
Folding, with 3 bars; strongly made.

Scrub Outfit
49c
Galvanized Iron Scrub Pail, scrub brush, and 4 cans Babbitt's Cleanser. All for 49c.

Mirror
49c
French plate glass, 10x16 inches, in white enamel frame.

A Sale of Dresses—Famous in a Day



Six hundred and fourteen (614) of these Dresses went on sale yesterday morning. At this writing it is impossible to promise any particular dress—but you can be assured as follows:

\$5.00 for young ladies' and adults' Net Dresses, Blue and Black Taffeta Silk Dresses, Serge and Wool Crepe Dresses for adults, and Regulation Sailor Dresses for young ladies, all the acme of style and finished with such nicety that \$5.00 does not nearly represent the worth of making alone.

\$10.00 for Silk Dresses for parties, the dance, and full dress occasions, visions of beauty in white, peach, maize, ciel, blue, Nile, flesh, and black. Some with elaboration of trimmings and needlework to make them worth twice \$10.

For street wear are Plain and Striped Taffeta and Charmeuse Silk Dresses, showing the new style of skirts, sleeves and collars.

\$15.00 for Dresses for every occasion—evening, travel and street wear, each distinctly new and dashing stylish. The new features include full skirts, draped skirts, tunics, puffy sleeves, new quaint bodice effects, and pannier sides.

Among the materials are Taffeta, Gros de Londre, Soiree, Georgette Crepe, and Poulit de Soie Silks.

Among the new shades are rose, silver, gray, Belgium blue, bisque, brown, rookie, navy blue, Russian green, and novelty stripes.

Basement Store.



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60 " Nitrogen	\$.80
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200 " "	2.00
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400 " "	4.00



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BOWLING**
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Here's pleasure and exercise happily combined! Every muscle of the body is brought into play and the mind is kept ever on the alert in friendly competition. Try it at one of the following of

Washington's Leading Bowling Alleys
National Capital Bowling Academy, 916-18 G St. N. W.
Frank Sherman, 1321 H St. N. W.
Southeast Bowling Alleys, 743-45 8th St. S. E.
Grand Central Alleys and Billiard Parlors, Center Market, 7th St. Wing.

Boost for Mammoth Bowling Tournament, at Camp Emory, Beginning April 3d.

PALAIS ROYAL

A. LISNER

G STREET